

Thomas Edison National Historical Park 211 Main Street West Orange, NJ 07052

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## Thomas Edison NHP News Release

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## Celebrate Junior Ranger Day on April 20

WEST ORANGE, NJ – On Saturday, April 20 the National Park Service will celebrate Junior Ranger Day at Thomas Edison National Historical Park. A special Junior Ranger tour of the laboratory complex will be offered at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. A wax cylinder recording demonstration will take place at 1:00 p.m. The entrance fee is \$7.00. Children under age 16 are free. There is no additional fee for the event.

During Junior Ranger Day young visitors are invited to earn their junior ranger badge as they explore the park and complete their free activity book. Junior rangers can also learn more about Edison's work with the telegraph and learn Morse code. They can experiment with telegraph equipment and practice sending messages too.

The <u>Sleepy Man Banjo Boys</u> bluegrass music trio will be the featured artists for a wax cylinder phonograph recording demonstration at 1:00 p.m. Watch and listen as the young trio makes sound recordings using a 1908 spring-motor Edison wax cylinder phonograph in the same way it was done over a century ago. The method of capturing sound is non-electric. Like the artists who recorded for Edison at the turn of the 20th century, the trio will play in front of a large horn that will serve as their microphone. Sleepy Man Banjo Boys from Lebanon Township, New Jersey are 11 year-old banjo-picker Jonny Mizzone, 14 year-old Robbie Mizzone on fiddle, and 15 year-old Tommy Mizzone on guitar. Best known for their YouTube practice videos, with over 15 million views, they debuted at the Grand Ole Opry in 2011. The trio has appeared on Late Night with David Letterman, The Mike Huckabee Show and NBC's Today Show. "We are very excited to have such talented young artists at an event that celebrates our youth," said Superintendent Jill A. Hawk.

We are also partnering with nearby Morristown National Historical Park to introduce a "Super Junior Ranger" designation. Those attending programs and completing activities at both parks during National Park Week will earn a special "Super Junior Ranger" certificate for their additional exploration of the national parks.

Junior Ranger Day is part of the annual National Park Week celebration. National park sites around the country will be celebrating National Park Week from April 20 to 28, 2013. Entrance fees will be waived for all visitors to Thomas Edison National Historical Park from Wednesday, April 24 through Friday, April 26, 2013. A fee free day is a great opportunity to discover new programs, new stories or discover what the

park has to offer. For information about our hours and National Park Week activities visit our website at www.nps.gov/edis or follow us on Twitter.

Thomas Edison National Historical Park is a National Park Service site dedicated to promoting an international understanding and appreciation of the life and extraordinary achievements of Thomas Alva Edison by preserving, protecting, and interpreting the Park's extensive historic artifact and archive collections at the Edison Laboratory Complex and Glenmont, the Edison family estate. The entrance fee is \$7.00. Children under age 16 are free. The Visitor Center is located at 211 Main Street in West Orange, New Jersey. For more information or directions call 973-736-0550 ext. 11 or visit: <a href="https://www.nps.gov/edis">www.nps.gov/edis</a>

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